Utilization of Employment Generation Funds by States

862. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States, which have not been effectively implementing various employment generation schemes in rural areas will have to go without further funds from the Centre;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the States which have a better track record in implementing these schemes will stand to gain when funds will be diverted from non-performing States; and

(c) if so, the States that have not been successful in utilising funds provided by the Centre for various rural employment generation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a system to ensure proper financial discipline and effective implementation of employment generation schemes in the rural areas. The State/Programme Implementing Agencies are not allowed to keep unutilized funds beyond a prescribed limit. The States having excess Opening Balances face a proportionate cut in their share of Central allocation so that the needs of the rural poor of other areas are met and the funds do not remain parked with these Agencies. Any additional requirement of funds of the States is considered keeping in view the available savings.

(c) As per the progress reports received from the States till date the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal could not utilise their total funds available under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the financial year 2003-04. Similarly under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal could not fully utilise their total funds available during the year 2003-04.

PMGSY Guidelines

863. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as per the guidelines of PMGSY

a village should have a minimum of 500 population; and if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana seeks to provide all-weather connectivity to all Unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons, through good All-weather roads, by the end of Tenth Plan Period (2007). In respect of the Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal), Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the objective is to connect Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. Habitations of population of 1000 or more get first priority followed by habitations of population of 500 or more followed, where eligible, by habitations of population of 250 or more.

Demand raised by Chief Ministers for more funds for Rural Development

864. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers demanded more funds for rural development in a meeting with Prime Minister on 29th June, 2004;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the additional funds to be released for Andhra Pradesh package for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central allocation of funds to the State Governments under the major rural development programmes are released on the basis of the poverty ratio estimated by the Planning Commission. The Central allocations of funds under rural development schemes have increased over the plan periods.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Rural Development.